WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A modular load-bearing system to be worn by security and combat personnel, comprising a base surface provided with a plurality of sleeve means and a plurality of pouches, each of said pouches having a major flange-like extension attached at one of its ends to a back surface of said pouch, said extension being sized to be inserted through one of said sleeves and to be retained therein by releasable interacting fastening means provided on a surface associated with said base surface and on said pouch.

2. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said base surface is an outer surface of a garment.

3. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said sleeves are formed from a plurality of panels, each of said panels being attached to said base surface along two spaced-apart lateral edges.

4. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said interacting fastening means is of the hook-in-piles Velcro™-type.

5. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said pouches are of varying dimensions.

6. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said releasable interacting fastening means are provided on an extension of said sleeve.

7. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said releasable interacting fastening means are provided directly on said base surface.

8. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said back surface of said pouch and an outer face of said sleeve are provided with interacting fastening means for removable interconnection thereof.

9. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 1, wherein said pouch is further provided with a minor flange-like extension attached to an end of said back surface of said pouch opposite the end supporting said major flange-like extension, said major flange-like extension protruding beyond said sleeve, interacting fastening means being provided for connecting said minor flange-like extension with a protruding portion of said major flange-like extension.

10. A modular load-bearing system according to claim 9, further provided with an openable flap depending from said base surface and when closed arranged to cover said minor flange-like extension, said flap and said minor flange-like extension being provided with interacting fastening means for interconnection when said flap is closed.